

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS STATE 172341

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MIJARES BRIBERY CHARGES

REF: A. STATE 169129; B. MANILA 9779

FULL TEXT OF JACK ANDERSON COLUMN JULY 22 READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE IN A LENGTHY CABLE FROM THE PHILIPPINES, PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS HAS NOW RESPONDED TO OUR REPORT THAT HE TRIED TO BRIBE A FORMER AIDE NOT TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS.

QUOTE WE TRIED TO GET MARCOS' SIDE OF THE STORY BEFORE WE WENT TO PRESS. WE ARE NOW HAPPY TO PUBLISH HIS BELATED EXPLANATIONS.

QUOTE THE DOLS 50,000 THAT WAS OFFERED TO THE WITNESS, PRIMITIVO MIJARES, WAS NOT INTENDED AS A BRIBE, BUT TO START A NEWSPAPER IN CALIFORNIA, EXPLAINED THE PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT.
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QUOTE HE ALSO CLAIMED MIJARES HAD OFFERED HIM INFORMATION ABOUT AN ALLEGED PLOT ON HIS LIFE BY PHILIPPINE EXILES AND CIA MEN. MARCOS ADDED THAT 'PHILIPPINE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES DOUBTED' THE CIA INVOLVEMENT, ALTHOUGH A

CONFESSED TRIGGERMAN SWORE HE HAD BEEN RECRUITED BY 'AN AMERICAN ALLEGEDLY WITH SOME CIA CONNECTIONS TO CARRY OUT THE ASSASSINATION.'

QUOTE PAYMENTS TOTALING DOLS 45,000 WERE AUTHORIZED FOR MIJARES, SAID MARCOS, 'ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT (THIS) NOMINAL FEE WOULD ENSURE A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF INFORMATION ON THE ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY.'

QUOTE BUT MIJARES WANTED DOLS 50,000 MORE 'TO PUT OUT A NEWSPAPER TO COUNTERACT' AN ANTI-MARCOS PAPER PUBLISHED IN SAN FRANCISCO, MARCOS ADDED.

QUOTE WE CAREFULLY TRACED A STRANGE DOLS 50,000 BANK TRANSACTION THAT BEGAN THE DAY MIJARES TESTIFIED ON CAPITOL HILL ABOUT THE ALLEGED TYRANNY AND CORRUPTION HE HAD SEEN AS A MARCOS AIDE.

QUOTE A PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK CHECK FOR DOLS 50,000 WAS MADE OUT TO THE PHILIPPINE CONSUL GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO, TRINIDAD ALCONCEL. THE CHECK WAS ENDORSED BY ALCONCEL AND DEPOSITED IN A JOINT LLOYDS BANK OF CALIFORNIA ACCOUNT IN THE NAMES OF BOTH MIJARES AND ALCONCEL.

QUOTE MIJARES ALLEGED THAT ON THE EVE OF HIS TESTIMONY HE RECEIVED A PERSONAL PHONE CALL FROM MARCOS URGING HIM NOT TO TESTIFY. THEN AN AIDE GOT ON THE PHONE AND OFFERED HIM THE DOLS 50,000.

QUOTE MIJARES WENT AHEAD, NEVERTHELESS, WITH HIS TESTIMONY. THE NEXT DAY, ALCONCEL ABRUPTLY TRANSFERRED THE DOLS 50,000 TO HIS OWN PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNT.

QUOTE THE PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT SAID THE DOLS 50,000 PAYMENT WAS AUTHORIZED 'LONG BEFORE' MIJARES' APPEARANCE BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS BUT THAT THE FUNDING WAS 'DELAYED BECAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE BUSY OFFICIAL CALENDAR IN PREPARATION FOR OUR VISIT TO CHINA.

QUOTE 'UPON OUR RETURN FROM CHINA, 50,000 U.S. DOLLARS WAS REMITTED TO AMBASSADOR ALCONCEL...THE AMOUNT WAS TRANSFERRED TO MIJARES BY MEANS OF A JOINT ACCOUNT DEPOSIT BY CHECK.

QUOTE ' IF THE PURPOSE HAD BEEN FOR BRIBERY, AS ALLEGED BY MIJARES, REMITTANCE OF THIS AMOUNT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BY SUCH MEANS, WHICH WOULD BE TRACEABLE AND EXPOSE ITS SOURCE TO EASY IDENTIFICATION.'

QUOTE ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 15, MIJARES ALLEGEDLY TELEPHONED MALACANANG, THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, AND SPOKE TO

PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT GUILLERMO (GIMO) DE VEGA.

QUOTE MARCOS CHARGED MIJARES HAD DEMANDED 'THAT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PAY 100,000 U.S. DOLLARS TO ENABLE HIM TO LEAVE FOR AUSTRALIA, OTHERWISE HE WOULD TESTIFY AGAINST THE PHILIPPINES...THIS NEW PROPOSAL DR. DE VEGA DENOUNCED AS PLAIN AND SIMPLE BLACKMAIL.'

QUOTE NOT LONG AFTERWARD, MARCOS SAID HE RECEIVED A CABLE-GRAM FROM MIJARES DECLARING: 'FOR THE PRESIDENT. SIR. I HAVE MADE CLEAR MY PLANS, DESIRES AND EXPECTATIONS TO GIMO. I HAVE ALSO TOLD GIMO THAT BY 2 A.M. TUESDAY MANILA TIME I WILL BE BEYOND YOUR REACH AND WITHIN JURISDICTION OF U.S. HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.'

QUOTE DECLARED MARCOS: 'BECAUSE OF THIS UNUSUAL DEMAND, DR. DE VEGA ORDERED PAYMENT OF THE 50,000 DOLLARS IMMEDIATELY STOPPED. IT BEARS EMPHASIZING AT THIS POINT THAT ALL REMITTANCES TO MIJARES WERE MADE THROUGH THE PROPER GOVERNMENT CHANNELS, USING THE PROPER ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING PROCEDURES.'

QUOTE BEFORE THE CONTROVERSIAL DOLS 50,000 WAS WITHDRAWN FROM MIJARES' ACCOUNT, HE ALREADY HAD ACCEPTED PAYMENTS OF DOLS 20,000 ON FEB. 24, DOLS 10,000 ON MARCH 21 AND DOLS 15,000 ON APRIL 3, MARCOS ALLEGED.

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QUOTE HE DIRECTED THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY TO SHOW US THE RECEIPTS AS EVIDENCE OF A PATTERN OF PAYMENTS TO MIJARES.

QUOTE 'WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO YOUR JULY 14TH COLUMN,' ADDED MARCOS, 'I MUST STATE THAT I HAVE NOT ASKED NOR AUTHORIZED ANYBODY TO ASK MIJARES TO RETRACT HIS TESTIMONY, OR LEAVE THE UNITED STATES OR TO OFFER HIM ANY CONSIDERATIONS.'

QUOTE 'I AM UNHAPPY TO BURDEN YOU WITH ALL THIS, BUT KNOWING YOUR PROFOUND SENSE OF DUTY AND FAIRNESS, I FEEL YOU ARE ENTITLED TO ALL FACTS. I AM CERTAIN THAT MIJARES, IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS PREVARICATION, WILL FURTHER EMBELLISH HIS STORY, BUT I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU WILL SEE THROUGH THAT.'

QUOTE FOOTNOTE: REACHED IN SAN FRANCISCO, MIJARES CALLED MARCOS' BLACKMAIL STORY 'FANTASTIC...HOGWASH. HE IS LOSING HIS GRIP, BECAUSE NO ONE CAN BLACKMAIL A DICTATOR.' THE VOUCHERS WERE 'FORGERIES,' A FAVORITE PRACTICE UNDER MARCOS, SAID MIJARES. 'IF HE'D PAID ME DOLS 45,000 WOULD I BE TAKING A SECOND MORTGAGE ON MY HOUSE?' MIJARES ASKED.

QUOTE ACCORDING TO MIJARES, MARCOS CHARGED HIM WITH BEING
A DOUBLE AGENT EXPRESSLY SO HE COULD HAVE HIM KILLED AND
COULD THEN BLAME IT ON PHILIPPINE EXILES. MIJARES HAS
TAKEN HIS STORY TO THE FBI.

QUOTE MIJARES, AN EX-NEWSPAPERMAN, VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE A
LIE DETECTOR TEST AND TESTIFY TO A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE
ON THE BIRBERY CHARGES. HE INVITED ALCONCEL AND OTHERS IN
THE CASE TO WAIVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND DO LIKEWISE.
THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY REJECTED THE CHALLENGE 'ON
PRINCIPLE.' END QUOTE.

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